

A DOUBLE TRAGEDY.

WIFE MURDER AND SUICIDE AT WICHITA.

O. E. Hart Shoots His Wife and Kills Himself—Link Pitts, the Cause of the Trouble, Makes His Escape, but the Police Are After Him.

WICHITA, Kan., June 22.—A terrible double tragedy occurred in this city yesterday, the sequel of three sensational, all happening in this county within the past year. O. E. Hart, a farmer of this county, shot and killed his wife, Ida Hart, at a boarding house on North Main street, where he had followed her from their home in Sunnysdale, finding her in company with a man named Link Pitts. After killing his wife, Hart blew out his own brains with a revolver. The circumstances leading up to the tragedy are as follows: On the morning of May 2 Link Pitts, who then conducted a creamery at Sunnysdale, was found lying in his bed, apparently stupefied from effects of chloroform. His wife was under the influence of a drug and in a critical condition. The day previous Pitts had been to Wichita, where he cashed several hundred dollars worth of checks for the neighbors, who were furnishing milk for the creamery, and this money was missing. The house was torn up as though burglarized and everybody believed Pitts' story to the effect that he had been robbed. In a few days, detectives discovered that Pitts had bought the chloroform, and he confessed and restored the money. On June 1 Pitts returned home, and informed his wife excitedly that he would have to flee the country, as Hart had found him with his wife. Pitts fled, but the neighbors did not believe the report he started, as the Hart family stood very high in the community. It was soon confirmed, as Hart brought suit for divorce, alleging adultery, and naming Pitts as co-respondent. The wife filed a cross bill, but before the date for the trial a reconciliation was effected, and the suits withdrawn. Yesterday it came to light that Pitts had kept up a correspondence with Mrs. Hart continuously since that time.

It seems that Pitts arranged with Mrs. Hart to meet in this city Saturday evening, and sent her a telegram over the signature of one of her relatives, asking her to come to Wichita, as her friend, Miss Edith Mueller, was lying at the point of death and wanted to see her. Mrs. Hart left for Wichita on the morning train Saturday, but the telegram did not disarm her husband's suspicion, and he concluded to follow her. He bought a revolver and started on a hunt for his wife. He succeeded in locating their rooms and found his wife there, but Pitts had fled. A few minutes later Mrs. Hart screamed and shouted for the police. Four shots were fired in quick succession, and when the door of the room was burst open by the police they found the husband and wife lying on the floor, dead. A note, signed by both, was found, which gave the following explanation for the rash act: "To parents, or whoever it may concern:—Know ye that we, the undersigned, are tired of life, and have agreed to put a stop to it. We sincerely ask and request that we be buried together. A good-by to all."

"O. E. HART."
"IDA HART."

The signature of Mrs. Hart to this remarkable agreement is not believed, by those familiar with her handwriting, to be genuine. If she signed the instrument in good faith she was weak when the test came, as occupants of the building heard her call for the police. Both the husband and wife are highly connected, as is also Pitts. When the divorce proceedings were pending Mrs. Hart claimed that Pitts had hypnotized her. She stated that she loathed the man, but that when in his presence she was entirely under his control. The police are searching for Pitts.

For Teller, Lewelling and Simpson.
WICHITA, Kan., June 22.—Sedgwick county Populists selected delegates to the appellate court convention. Resolutions were adopted favoring union of the silver forces, commanding Teller's course in walking out of the St. Louis convention, endorsing Jerry Simpson's candidacy for renomination from the Seventh Congressional district and urging the renomination of Lewelling for governor. The latter made a speech.

Supreme United Workmen Officers.
BUFFALO, N. Y., June 22.—Officers of the supreme lodge, A. O. U. W. have been elected as follows: Supreme master workman, J. G. Tate of Nebraska; supreme foreman, W. S. Rolson of Texas; supreme overseer, H. C. Sessions of South Dakota; supreme guide, George M. Lange of Minnesota; supreme watchman, Thomas Capitt of Utah; trustees, R. B. Ferren of Connecticut and Louis Anfenger of Colorado.

"Dynamite Dick" in Limbo.
GUTHRIE, Ok., June 22.—Dynamite Dick, alias Dan Wiley, the last member of the notorious Doolin and Dalton gangs to be captured, was lodged in the federal jail here last night. He has been constantly chased by officers for several years, a reward of \$3,000 hanging over his head. The charge on which he is held is the murder of Deputy Marshals Houston, Speed and Shadley in the Ingalls battle three years ago.

Federal Over a Live Corpse.
PORTSMOUTH, Ohio, June 22.—A queer religious ceremony was celebrated at the little chapel at Fallen Timber, in this (Scioto) county, yesterday. It consisted of a funeral oration and the accompanying solemnities, with the "corpse" in the front pew of the church, alive and well. The man whose erratic mind conceived this innovation is Lorenzo Dan McKinley, a rich farmer and a man of commanding influence in the county. He is a fatalist, and although in perfect health, believes he will die within the year.

POLITICAL NEWS NOTES.

Montana Democrats elected an instructed delegation and endorsed Senator Teller's course at St. Louis.

Democrats and Populists of Lyon county, Kan., have fused on a joint county ticket.

The mother of the emperor of China is dead, aged 62 years.

McKinley is overwhelmed with congratulations and visits from delegations from all parts of the country.

Mark Hanna has been elected chairman of the national Republican committee.

The Democrats of Moberly, Mo., endorsed Hockaday for governor and Baskett for Congress.

Senator Forsaker is out in a lengthy statement to the effect that the St. Louis convention took no new stand on silver, but simply made a more explicit declaration than heretofore because of the stand of the silver Republicans in the Senate voting against the Dingley tariff bill, and that the bolt of Senator Teller and his associates was without excuse.

Ex-Secretary of the Navy Whitney has issued a statement to the public in which he declares that if Democratic convention nominates a silver man for president and adopts a silver platform the party will meet the most disastrous defeat in the history of the country.

A. P. A. leaders are very much dissatisfied with the St. Louis convention for ignoring their principles in the platform, and declare that McKinley will lose 1,000,000 votes in consequence. The election of R. C. Kerens as national committeeman for Missouri was especially distasteful.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Oxley Slave factory at Camden, Ark., was destroyed by fire.

Judge James H. Shell of Audrain county, one of Missouri's oldest citizens, is dead.

It is thought to be certain that Miss Belle Bennett of Topeka, Kan., went down with the Drummond Castle off the coast of France.

The weekly statement of the New York banks show a decrease of \$6,500,000 in cash holdings and an expansion of \$305,300 in the loan account.

H. R. Sherard visited Oscar Wilde in Reading prison. He says that Wilde is a wreck, physically and mentally.

OMAHA'S EXPOSITION.

Business Men of the City Called Upon to Raise \$250,000.

OMAHA, June 20.—The business men of Omaha met last night to discuss the trans-Mississippi exposition project. G. W. Wattles, president of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition association, gave a brief but thorough account of the nature of the exposition and the benefit it would be to Omaha and Nebraska and said: "To make the exposition such a success as it must be, the city should appropriate a large sum, the state should do the same and the people of Omaha should contribute at least 1/4 million dollars to the enterprise. I believe we can rely on Douglas county to do its share. Senator Allen told me the other day that if we can raise 1/4 million dollars he did not doubt but that \$200,000 more could be obtained from the next Congress, and that he would introduce a bill to that effect."

Representatives from several Western states were present and plans for the big show discussed in detail.

LEADVILLE MINES CLOSE.

Owners and the Union Clash and Strike and Lockout Follow.

LEADVILLE, Col., June 22.—Unless a settlement shall be quickly reached between the mine owners and the Miners' union work is likely to be suspended at nearly all of the silver mines in the camp. The Ibbex company, owners of the Little Johnny mine, shut down all of their properties today. All the miners were also laid off indefinitely at the Alps, Garbutt, Yak and other mines where the men's wages were \$3 per day.

Although the trouble originated in a demand of the union for \$3 per day in silver mines, the owners of which claim they cannot pay such wages at the present price of silver, the owners claim that the real issue is whether the Miners' union shall be permitted to dictate the employment of only union men, and they will fight this to the end.

The streets are crowded with miners, but they are well behaved.

No News of a Conflict.

LONDON, June 20.—Inquiries at the colonial office to-day shows that the secretary of state for the colonies, Mr. Chamberlain, has received no confirmation of reports from Caracas that a sanguinary conflict has taken place in the territory in dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela in British Guiana and the rumor is not confirmed there.

Accidentally Killed Himself.

MARION, Kan., June 22.—C. Neiderhauser, a prominent shoe merchant of this city, while oiling a revolver preparatory to killing a vicious dog, accidentally discharged the weapon, killing himself. Mr. Neiderhauser was prominent in business and social circles, and was a member of a number of secret societies.

Getting Anxious.

LONDON, June 22.—The Daily News, Liberal, has an article in which it again strongly urges upon the government a prompt settlement of the Venezuelan question.

Dickinson Falls Out of the Race.

CLINTON, Mo., June 22.—C. C. Dickinson, yesterday announced that he has withdrawn from the race for the Democratic Congressional nomination of the Sixth district. This probably insures Congressman DeArmond's renomination by acclamation.

Judge Shell of Mexico, Mo., Dead.

MEXICO, Mo., June 22.—Judge James H. Shell died last night. He was born in Sullivan county Tenn., August 6, 1818, came to Missouri in 1843 and was a veteran in the Mexican and Indian wars.

A QUEER KANSAS SECT.

BRETHREN OF CHRIST AND THEIR RELIGIOUS CUSTOMS.

Believe That They Are the True Followers of Christ and That All Others Are Heretics—Great Prosperity the Reward of Their Devotion.

Abilene (Kas.) Letter.

THE annual pilgrimage of the Kansas River brethren will take place soon, and the trains going out of Kansas City will take whole carloads of bearded men wearing plain clerical clothing, wide-brimmed hats

and heavy boots, and women whose garb and cloth bonnets are of the most quakerlike appearance. The River Brethren are Pennsylvanians in thought and inclination, and their Pennsylvania thrift has made their homes on the prairie models of neatness, comfort and prosperity. They have succeeded where others have failed and are probably the most prosperous of Central Kansas residents.

Originally they are Germans, two brothers having led them from the fatherland early in the century to find a land where greater freedom in religious matters might be secured. They were Brethren in Christ, properly speaking, but because they lived by the Susquehanna were dubbed "River Brethren," and even yet, although their homes are on the high prairies, the name clings to them. The Kansas branch has its headquarters in this county, where there are 2,000 of them, and they make much of the county's substantial wealth.

Crowded out of Pennsylvania, they

his condition and expressed the contrition which he felt. The church had a special meeting, and contributions were called for. One by one the brethren went forward, amid prayers and rejoicing, and put down their names for from \$100 to \$400 in cash, and raised a fund which paid every creditor and made the bishop free of all claims. Nor do they expect any reward or repayment. It is a part of their religion to do this for one another.

The aim of the church is to keep the members humble. One who fails to allow his hair to grow long upon his shoulders or a woman guilty of a bit of ribbon is in danger of excommunication. The women's dresses are gray or black without a flounce or bit of trimming, and watch and chain are an abomination. One of their leading members was elected county superintendent of schools by the republicans and is the only one to hold office. It nearly cost him his church standing, as they called him before them for the violation of doctrine in soliciting votes.

"I know," said he, "that I asked some to vote for me, but I wanted an endorsement of my first term and will never do it again."

This suited them and he was let off with an admonition. Seldom do they go to the polls and since this incident they have done so less than ever. However, any one who thinks them lacking in political shrewdness is mistaken. One year ago last fall, in Hayes township of this county, about a dozen of the brethren decided to vote. They are all republicans and the populists thinking their religion might interfere with their taking an oath concluded to save the precinct by challenging their votes and compelling them to swear them in.

"Very well," said the leader, and he raised his hand. The others did likewise and the votes were cast. But the leader did not leave the room. He

ing to their native Swiss-German tongue.

One of them walked up to the ticket window and took out a long leather purse, which he emptied in a clinking mass of gold, silver and bills—\$7,040 in cash.

"Give me 100 tickets to Lancaster," he remarked coolly, as if only buying a paper of pins. The agent's breath was fairly taken away, and it was with difficulty that he could get the tickets ready in time for the east-bound train.

After that the railroads were ready for them, and traveling passenger agents began to work for their good graces. Free transportation for the ladies, chair cars (the height of the brethren's dream of luxury) and quick time were promised lavishly, but the shrewd churchmen soon learned that the scramble meant profit to them and would start out in car-load lots for the east, buying tickets only to Kansas City, intending to get better rates there because of greater rivalry.

The church services are remarkably quiet and unemotional to an outsider. No ordained minister is in the pulpit—only some farmer-elder, who is willing to serve freely. Comments are offered from the pews, and there is a



BETHEL CHURCH.

great deal of lovefeast testimony, every one being given a chance to make a few remarks as to their spiritual welfare. It is opposed to their church polity to make a will, join a lodge or have pictures taken. Photographers have small business in the towns where the population is largely of River Brethren.

But with all their odd ways they are good advertisers of Kansas and its possibilities. They have made the desert blossom as the rose and are not afraid to tell it. Their numbers are constantly being increased by immigration from the east, and but few go back east to live. Of the River Brethren population in this county not one has been in the poorhouse or dependent upon alms. But one man has been before the court and there were grave doubts as to his guilt, as the evidence was wholly circumstantial.

They build old-fashioned Pennsylvania red barns and stuff them full of oats and hay for the sleek horses and the well-bred cows. They give much attention to cattle, hens and hogs. They have been the most successful creamery managers in the state. One company of River Brethren in this county pays out \$18,000 a month to farmers for milk and makes a brand of butter that is sold and known from Chicago to the City of Mexico. They have nearly 700 patrons for the creamery, and it is a curious sight in the summer mornings to see the long lines of farm wagons driven by the wife or big sister of each household, coming up to the creamery station to unload the precious burden. When crops have failed this milk money has been the salvation of many a family.

Economy and hard work are their mottoes, and they live up to them religiously. Few, indeed, are the homes that have upholstered furniture or Brussels carpets, and the young men are quick to see that no extravagance will find favor in the eyes of sweethearts.

The semi-annual feet washing is one of the quaint customs of the brethren. Men and women gather in their barn-like church—bethel, they call it—and their feet are stripped of shoes and stockings, preparatory to the observance of the rite. The elders serve on the men's side and the deaconesses on the women's. With basins of water and immaculate towels they go up and down washing their neighbors' feet in



A BROTHER OF CHRIST.

tokens of humility, and say over each pedal extremity a prayer.

Industrious Farmer's Wife.

A farmer's wife in Michigan kept a record last year of her cooking operations. Her husband was dumb with astonishment when she produced this record for a family of six: Three hundred and twenty-five loaves of bread, 83 tins of biscuit, 15 loaves of brown bread, 267 pies, 130 cakes, 35 puddings, 114 dozen cookies, 108 dozen ginger snaps and 14 chicken pies. Nor does this include the meats and vegetables. That this list is not above the average is readily seen by dividing it into weekly portions. Machinery and co-operation are already making life easier for the woman who does her own housework.—Boston Commonwealth.

Patriotism.

There is need of patriotism in America to-day. It would counteract natural selfishness and give greater responsibility to the citizen.—Rev Henry Antlice.

The Bicycle Race.

"Have you observed," inquired Satan casually, "that there is a lack of intenser agony upon the countenances of the burning shades than there used to be?"

"Oh, yes," answered Lucifer, rolling a fresh cigarette. "That is the bicycle race, you know. They assume it naturally the minute they begin to scorch."

There was a natural sequence, from the order of which departure could not be lightly taken.

A Mistaken Diagnosis.

A song with the title, "There's a Sign in the Heart," was sent by a young man to his sweetheart, but the paper fell into the hands of the girl's father, a very unsentimental physician, who exclaimed:

"What wretched, unscientific rubbish is this? Who ever heard of such a case?"

He wrote on the outside: "Mistaken diagnosis; no sign in the heart possible. Signs relate almost entirely to the lungs and diaphragm."

Where His Paper Circulated.

An Arizona editor wrote to an Eastern commercial firm, that did business in his section, soliciting an advertisement, to which the latter replied by asking:

"Where does your paper go?"

With much promptness the Arizona man answered:

"To North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa—and it's all I can do to keep it from going to —"

A Bright Boy.



Mother—"Johnny, you can't go in swimming on a full stomach."

Johnny—"If you'll only let me go, I'll swim on my back."

Keeping Up the Work.

"Have we had a protest from anyone recently?" asked the Sultan, as he lit a fresh cigarette.

"No, your Majesty," replied the chief of the file department.

"No nation has deigned to record a kick?" said the Sultan scowling.

"None, your Highness."

"Then have some more Armenians killed at once. I will not be neglected in this shameful way."

Her Graduation Essay.

"Have you written your graduation essay?" asked Maud.

"Yes," replied Mamie.

"Wasn't it a lot of work?"

"Just dreadful. First I had to hunt up words that were big enough, and then I had to keep looking in the dictionary to see what they mean, and honestly, I began to think I never would get it finished."

How He Proved It.

"As many as eight burglars got into my house last night and I thought I would come and tell you about it," said young Mr. Fitts. "Did you get a good look at them?" asked the desk sergeant. "Didn't see 'em at all." "How the—how do you know how many there were?" "Because they ate one of my wife's cooking school pies. No seven men are equal to that job."

Hard to Classify.

Pruyn—I suppose, as a matter of fact, a baby is really nothing but a little animal?

Popper—Yes; the difficulty is to tell what kind.

Pruyn—What do you mean?

Popper—Well, I can't just classify him when he crows one minute and bellows the next.—Puck.

Dangerous Possibilities.

"But why do you not print a card and deny the accusation?" inquired the politician's wife.

"Deny it?" howled the politician, "and then have them prove it? No; I will treat it with contempt."—Truth.

Can't Help It.

Blenkington—I wonder why "churchyards yawn," as Shakespeare says?

Pemberton—Probably the epitaphs of the deceased millionaires make them tired.—Truth.

A Son's Solicitude.

"I had a fight yesterday with the boy next door."

"Yes, his father called at my office to-day about it."

"I hope you came out as well as I did."—Life.

Where He Could Always See It.

Husband—Do you know, my dear, I never get tired of looking at that photograph of you.

Wife—Why don't you have it framed and hung up in the club?—Life.

No Reason for Anxiety.

"Does your wife worry about you when you travel?"

"Not at all. She knows I always buy accident insurance."—Life.

Unable to Fracture.

He—And so you wish to break off our engagement, long as it is?

She—The longer a thing is, the easier it is to break off.—Life.